

CLAIMS:

1. A computer-implemented method comprising steps of:  
receiving identification information from a consumer;  
identifying, based upon said received identification information, one or more parameters related to promotions received by said consumer; and  
determining a time at which a promotion is to be provided based upon said identified one or more parameters related to promotions received by said consumer.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more parameters related to said promotions received by said consumer relate to a packaging of said received promotions received by said consumer.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more parameters related to said promotions received by said consumer relate to a time at which said promotions received were received by said consumer.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more parameters related to said promotions received by said consumer relate to a product class of said promotions received by said consumer.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more parameters related to said promotions received by said consumer relate to a product industry of said promotions received by said consumer.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more parameters related to said promotions received by said consumer relate to a location where said promotions received can be exercised by said consumer.
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more parameters related to said promotions received by said consumer relate to a value of said promotions received.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more parameters related to promotions received by said consumer relate to a validity date of said promotions received.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more parameters related to said promotions received by said consumer relate to a provision method of said promotions received.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more parameters related to said promotions received by said consumer relate to a other purchases necessary to exercise said promotions received.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more parameters related to said promotions received by said consumer relate to a nature of said promotions received.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more parameters related to said promotions received by said consumer relate to a promoter who is the source of said promotions received.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of identifying one or more parameters comprises determining if said consumer is appropriate for said promotion, said promotion being predetermined.

14. The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of providing said promotion at said determined time to said identified consumer.

15. The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of using said received identification information to identify said consumer.

16. The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of selecting a targeted promotion from a plurality of potential promotions based upon said one or more characteristics

of said consumer, said determined time being for said targeted promotion.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein said step of selecting said targeted promotion comprises matching said one or more characteristics of said consumer to a desired consumer profile.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein said desired consumer profile originates from a promoter.

19. The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of receiving a predetermined promotion from a promoter, said determined time being for said predetermined promotion.

20. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of determining said time at which said promotion is to be provided comprises determining a number of promotions recently received by said consumer.

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein said number of promotions recently received by said consumer comprising promotions in a particular industry recently received by said consumer.

22. The method according to claim 20, wherein said number of promotions recently received by said consumer comprising promotions exercisable at a particular location recently received by said consumer.

23. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of determining said time at which said promotion is to be provided comprises determining a value of said promotions recently received by said consumer.

24. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of determining said time at

which said promotion is to be provided comprises determining an importance of said provision of said promotion to a promoter.

25. The method according to claim 24, further comprising charging a promoter according to said importance of said provision of said promotion.

26. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of determining said time at which said promotion is to be provided comprises determining at least one of a demographic and a purchase history characteristic of said consumer.

27. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of determining said time at which said promotion is to be provided comprises:

determining promotions recently received by said consumer;

determining at least one of a demographic and a purchase history characteristic of said consumer;

determining an importance of said provision of said promotion to a promoter; and

fusing said determined promotions recently received, said at least one of a demographic and a purchase history characteristic, and said importance of said provision into one parameter related to said time at which said promotion is to be provided.

✓ 28. A system, comprising:

means for receiving identification information from a consumer;

means for identifying one or more parameters related to promotions received by said consumer based upon said identification information received by said means for receiving; and

means for determining a time at which a promotion is to be provided based upon said one or more parameters related to promotions received by said consumer, said one or more parameters identified by said means for identifying.

29. The system according to claim 28, wherein said one or more parameters of related to promotions received by said consumer comprising at least one of a timing, an industry, a class, a

type, a packaging, a validity date, a valid location, other products that must be purchased to exercise, and a value of said promotions received by said consumer.

30. The system according to claim 28, further comprising means for providing said promotion at said time determined by said means for determining to said consumer identified by said means for identifying.

31. The system according to claim 28, further comprising means for selecting a targeted promotion from a plurality of potential promotions based upon said one or more characteristics of said consumer, said time determined by said means for determining being for said targeted promotion

32. The system according to claim 28, further comprising means for receiving a predetermined promotion from a promoter, said time determined by said means for determining being for said predetermined promotion.

✓ 33. A system, comprising:  
a consumer identification information receiver configured to receive consumer identification information;  
a consumer identification record configured to contain stored consumer identification information;  
a consumer characteristic record configured to contain a record of characteristics of said consumer;  
a promotion output device configured to output a targeted promotion at a promotion time based at least in part based upon said record of characteristics of said consumer; and  
a processor configured to use said received consumer identification information to identify a consumer using said stored consumer identification information, and moreover to determine said promotion time at least in part based upon said record of characteristics of said consumer contained in said consumer characteristic record.

34. The system according to claim 33, wherein:  
said promotion output device comprises a network interface; and

said promotion comprises an electronic signal.

35. The system according to claim 33, wherein said consumer characteristic record comprises:

a received promotions record configured to contain a record related to received promotions received by said consumer.

36. The system according to claim 35, wherein said received promotions record comprises a received promotion value record.

37. The system according to claim 35, wherein said received promotions record comprises a received promotion validity date record.

38. The system according to claim 35, wherein said received promotions record comprises a received promotion valid location record.

39. The system according to claim 35, wherein said received promotions record comprises a received promotion product class record.

40. The system according to claim 35, wherein said received promotions record comprises a received promotion industry record.

41. The system according to claim 35, wherein said received promotions record comprises a received promotion provision method record.

42. The system according to claim 35, wherein said received promotions record comprises a received promotion packaging record.

43. The system according to claim 35, wherein said received promotions record comprises a received promotion time of receipt record.

44. The system according to claim 33, wherein said processor is further configured to

select said targeted promotion from a plurality of potential promotions based upon said one or more characteristics of said consumer.

45. The system according to claim 33, further comprising a promotion receiver configured to receive a predetermined promotion from a promoter, said promotion time determined by said processor being for said predetermined promotion.

46. A computer readable medium containing program instructions for execution on a computer system, which when executed by the computer system, cause the computer system to perform the method recited in any one of claims 1 to 27.